

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 An extrusion system (10) is provided having an extruder (12), raw material input apparatus (14), dryer (16) and controller (18). The system (10) is equipped with strategically placed analyzers (22-26) designed to measure important parameters of the material input and the final extrudates; the analyzers (22-26) are coupled to controller (18), the latter also being operatively connected to the system components (12-16) for real-time operational control thereof. The analyzers (22-26) are preferably designed to generate analysis signals which pass through a cross-section of the material or extrudate, such as ultrasound, NIR or microwave analyzers.